

Meeting Minutes
Region 5. Neches Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
Thursday, October 15, 2026, 2:30 p.m.

Member	Interest	Role	Attendance
Steve Moon	Industries	Voting	Absent
Jeff Branick	Counties	Voting	Present
Allen Sims	Flood Districts	Voting	Present
Scott Hall	River Authorities	Voting	Present
Liv Haselbach	Electric Generating Utilities	Voting	Present
Ellen Buchanan	Environmental	Voting	Present
Milton Purvis	Agricultural	Voting	Present
Kyle Kingma	Municipalities	Voting	Absent
Amanda Young	Public	Voting	Present
Brian McDougal	Small Business	Voting	Present
Butch Wilson	Water Districts	Voting	Present
Robb Starr	Water Utilities	Voting	Present
Kirian Brown	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	Non-voting	Absent
Michelle Ellis	Texas Division of Emergency Management	Non-voting	Present
Manuel Martinez	Texas Department of Agriculture	Non-voting	Absent
Trey Watson	Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board	Non-voting	Absent
Cyndye Robinson	Texas General Land Office	Non-voting	Absent
Katie Pietsch Koslan	Texas Water Development Board	Non-voting	Alternate
Kathy Saucedo	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	Non-voting	Absent
Lisa McCracken Mairs	US Army Corps of Engineers	Non-voting	Absent
Keith Horn	Texas Department of Transportation	Non-voting	Absent
Jacob Donellan	Federal Public Lands	Non-voting	Absent
Randy Reece	Sabine Neches Navigation District	Non-voting	Absent
Jonathan Spellman	Region 3. Trinity RFPG	Liaison	Absent
Don Carona	Region 4. Sabine RFPG	Liaison	Alternate
Vacant	Region 6. San Jacinto RFPG	Liaison	Absent
Rolando Ayala	Freese & Nichols, Inc.	Liaison	Present
Risa King	Lower Neches Valley Authority	Liaison	Present

Quorum established. Ten of twelve voting positions represented.

Attendees:

Luz Lumb, Texas Water Development Board
 Lincoln Abbott, Freese & Nichols, Inc.
 Emily Stephens, Freese & Nichols, Inc.
 Aaron Burciaga
 Cheryl Ray, Traylor & Associates

Doug Manning, Region 4. Sabine RFPG
 Jennifer Leonard, HDR
 Kevin Wessels, TWDB
 Matthew Berg

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order

Discussion/Action Items

- The meeting was called to order at 2:34 p.m., and a quorum was established.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Receive registered public comments on specific agenda items.

Discussion/Action Items

- There were no comments.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Update from Texas Water Development Board.

Discussion/Action Items

- The Task 5B FME for Small and Rural Communities effort is underway and progressing for the first two FMEs.
- TWDB expects to provide 50% submittal milestone updates to Regional Flood Planning Groups between October and December.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Approve minutes of the June 23 and August 20, 2026, meetings.

Discussion/Action Items

- The Group considered the minutes of the June 23 and August 20, 2026, meetings.
- Ellen Buchanan moved to approve the minutes, and Jeff Branick seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Receive updates and possible action from Technical Consultant:

- a. Update on Task 1 (Planning Area Description – Historical Flood Events)**
- b. Update on Task 4C (Performance of FMEs)**
- c. Update on Task 5A (Recommendation of FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs)**
- d. Update on Task 7 (Flood Response Information and Activities)**

Discussion/Action Items

- Reviewed September 2026 flooding, rainfall data, observed impacts, and comparisons with existing flood hazard mapping.
- Presented modeling progress and refined flood mitigation alternatives in Hardin and Polk Counties, including roadway improvements, drainage modifications, detention, and structure elevations.
- Reviewed updated project inventories, cost estimates, new proposed actions, and coordination with adjacent planning regions. Recommendations will be presented for consideration at upcoming meetings.
- Reviewed preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities, including lessons from recent flooding. No significant changes were reported.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Public Comment

Discussion/Action Items

- There were none

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Reports from other flood planning region liaisons.

Discussion/Action Items

- Doug Manning confirmed that the Sabine Regional Flood Planning Group is moving the Neches portion of the SB2G project into Sabine so the project can be evaluated as a whole rather than split between regions.
- Liv Haselbach reported that San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group completed its community meetings and will hold its next meeting on November 10 at 9:00 a.m.; future San Jacinto meetings will be in person because of difficulties supporting online participation.
- Amanda Young stated that the Trinity Regional Flood Planning Group is not scheduled to meet until November 19, 2026.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Status updates and discussions from RFPG members.

Discussion/Action Items

- Ellen Buchanan raised concerns about repeated stormwater and sediment-control violations during Texas Department of Transportation's Highway 69 construction project, including discharges onto private property and into downstream waterways. The group proposed a legislative recommendation to strengthen enforcement authority and require contractors to promptly correct violations.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Consider future meeting dates.

Discussion/Action Items

- The next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Consider possible agenda items for the next meeting.

Discussion/Action Items

- The November meeting is expected to include continued modeling updates, initial recommendations for FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs, and Task 9 financing analysis.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 17: Adjourn

Discussion/Action Items

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Scott Hall, Secretary

Steve Moon, Chair